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Senate

The Senate met at 9:30 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable SAM BROWBACK, a Senator from the State of Kansas.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Eternal Father, whose compassionate love sustains us, hear our prayer. Guide our Senators in their labors. Show them the path that leads to fulfilling Your will. In Your love, keep them faithful. When clouds obscure the way, let them know the peace of Your presence. Fortify them with Your might so that they will be instruments of Your purposes. Give them wisdom to make laws that will meet the challenges of our times.

Lord, teach us all the discipline of patience so we will learn to wait on Your providence. We pray in Your sovereign Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable SAM BROWBACK led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. STEVENS).

The legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, July 12, 2006.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable SAM BROWBACK, a

Senator from the State of Kansas, to perform the duties of the Chair.

TED STEVENS,
President pro tempore.

Mr. BROWBACK thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, this morning, we will start with 1 hour of morning business. At approximately 10:40 a.m., we will resume work on the Homeland Security appropriations measure. Yesterday, we disposed of seven amendments, and there are two amendments currently pending. Today we should have another full day on the bill with votes occurring throughout the day.

As I have said previously, we will finish the bill this week, and, therefore, we will stay as late as necessary over the next couple of days in order to complete our work on this Homeland Security bill. I thank Senators for their cooperation in working with the managers of the Homeland Security measure. We are making good progress, and we want to complete the bill shortly. I look forward to finishing the appropriations bill, in all likelihood, on Thursday.

Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. CHAMBLISS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, there will be a period for the transaction of morning business for up to 60 minutes, with the first half of the time under the control of the majority leader or his designee and the second half of the time under the control of the Democratic leader or his designee.

The Senator from Georgia is recognized.

IRAQ AND THE GLOBAL WAR ON TERRORISM

Mr. CHAMBLISS. Mr. President, I rise this morning to address America's ongoing efforts in Iraq and the larger war on terrorism.

Our Nation continues its steadfast resolve to bring security and prosperity to the Iraqi people, and President Bush is leading that effort with the help of this Congress and the American people.

Amidst press reports, which are generally not reflective of the most important things going on in Iraq, I want to review some recent successes that highlight the progress we are making.

BG Kurt Cichowski, Deputy Chief of Staff for Strategy, Plans and Assessment of the Multi-National Force-Iraq, recently announced that the Iraqi security forces will assume full control of the southern Muthanna. According to General Cichowski:

The transfer of security responsibility from U.S. forces to the Iraqi security forces clearly demonstrates an Iraqi success and signifies a tangible beginning to a new phase in the history of this nation.

Muthanna is the first of Iraq's 18 provinces to be fully transferred from coalition to Iraqi security forces control. This latest move is a result of

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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joint evaluation and collaboration between the provincial governor and the coalition ground commander and clearly represents another turning point in our efforts in Iraq.

Further, recent successes in joint raid operations dramatically demonstrate the real progress we are making on the ground against the insurgents. This past Friday, joint raids were conducted on a building which had been used as a base of operation by Abu Deraa, a top commander of the Shiite militia. The Department of Defense reported the killing or wounding of between 30 and 40 militia gunmen and the capture of a high-level militia commander. That same day, Iraqi police officers captured yet another top insurgent commander who is believed to have been involved in smuggling weapons, bankrolling terrorists, and launching attacks against American troops. This is the kind of progress we are making on which, for whatever reason, the media chooses not to focus.

Only yesterday, Iraqi Ambassador Khalilzad, addressing the Center for Strategic and International Relations here in Washington, spoke with justifiable pride and confidence concerning Iraq's future and its ability to meet the challenges of governing a previously divided nation.

Let me quote liberally from some of what the Ambassador said:

Today, Sunni Arabs are full participants in the political process, with their representation in the national assembly now proportional to their share of the population . . . they have largely come to see the United States as an honest broker in helping Iraq's communities come together around a process and a plan to stabilize the country.

He also noted that:

al Qaeda in Iraq has been significantly weakened during the past year . . . which has coincided with the inauguration of Iraq's first ever government of national unity . . . and the recent announcement by Prime Minister Maliki of his government's National Reconciliation and Dialogue Project.

The Ambassador also reported that:

[A] chasm has been developing between al Qaeda and those Sunni Arabs in Iraq who have been part of the armed opposition. Previously, many Sunni Arab insurgents saw al Qaeda's operations as beneficial for their own cause. Now, the Sunni Arabs increasingly understand that the terrorists are not interested in the future of Iraq and that al Qaeda's leaders see Iraqis as cannon fodder in an effort to instigate a war of civilizations. More and more, Iraqi Sunni Arab insurgents reject the cynical game. Osama bin Laden's specific denunciation of Sunni Arab political leaders, such as Vice President Tareq Hashami, and recently captured documents indicate that al Qaeda's leadership knows that they are losing ground as a result of Iraq's reconciliation process. They know that if reconciliation goes further and begins to hollow out the Sunni Arab armed opposition, it is a mortal threat to their terrorist movement.

Let me say about Ambassador Khalilzad, having been to Iraq on four occasions myself, having met with the Ambassador each time I was there, plus having met with him previously when he was in Afghanistan, and on other oc-

casions when he was here, this man is extremely well respected by the Iraqis. He is the right man in the right place to help improve America's image and to continue the dialogue with the Iraqis to make sure that we move that country forward in a democratic process.

Some would have us ignore these successes or simply never hear of them. Some would have us abandon these noble efforts and those of well over 100,000 service members working every day to bring about a peaceful Iraq. But the cost of doing so is too high, the consequences too horrible. We simply cannot permit the villainous hand of terrorism to strangle America's resolve and snuff out the coalition and Iraqi successes which are bringing hope to the hopeless and victory to the previously subjugated people of Iraq.

Iraq remains absolutely central to the war on terror. On June 7, 2006, American and coalition forces dealt a powerful blow to the terrorists when they killed the leader of al-Qaida in Iraq, Abu Musab al-Zarqawi. The elimination of al-Zarqawi, who had claimed responsibility for attacks on U.S. citizens since 2002, is a major victory in our global war on terrorism as our counterterrorism forces, together with our intelligence community, demonstrated our tenacity, our capabilities, and our intent to winning this war on terror.

While we continue to identify, capture, and kill terrorists and prevent them from turning Iraq's fragile democracy into a lawless training ground from which they can launch attacks against our homeland and against their own peaceful citizens, we must not forget that this is, indeed, a global war on terrorism. Only yesterday did the world witness a tragic terrorist event in the world's largest democracy, India, where seven nearly simultaneous bombings killed more than 100 innocent people and injured hundreds more on the Mumbai commuter rail. This heinous act of terrorism is sadly too familiar. It was just 1 year ago that al-Qaida perpetrated the synchronized bombings in London, killing over 50 people and wounding hundreds more.

Terrorists are still seeking to kill Americans with similar attacks on our own soil. Just last week, we learned that the FBI, working together with their counterparts in Lebanon, arrested an individual in a plot to detonate explosives in the Holland Tunnel in New York City. Earlier this month, the FBI arrested seven suspects of an al-Qaida-inspired group in Miami for their efforts to wage jihad against Americans and for plotting to destroy the Sears Tower in Chicago, IL. Even in my home State of Georgia, alleged terrorists, again inspired by al-Qaida's violent ideology, in collaboration with their counterparts in Canada, Europe, and South Asia, were planning attacks in the United States.

Despite these and other activities to attack our homeland, there has not

been a single terrorist attack on U.S. soil since September 11. This is due to this administration's policy of taking the fight to the terrorists, denying them sanctuary in Afghanistan, Iraq, and elsewhere, working closely with our foreign partners, and strengthening our Nation's counterterrorism capabilities.

The world changed on September 11, 2001, demonstrating that it is vitally important that the President of the United States has the power and authority to protect the American people from future acts of terrorism. Programs such as the Terrorist Surveillance Program or the Terrorist Finance Tracking Program which, based on intelligence leads, carefully targets terrorist communications or financial transactions, are essential tools in the war on terror. If there are people talking or communicating with terrorists, plotting against Americans, or sending money to help al-Qaida, then we need to know about it.

We know too well that terrorists are able to sneak into a country and hide among law-abiding citizens. Too often, we have witnessed the horror they cause in places such as Iraq, Tel Aviv, Madrid, London, and unfortunately, in the United States. It is abundantly clear that these types of important programs are necessary to address the previous flaws in our early warning system that allowed at least two of the September 11 murderers to live among us.

These vital programs make it more likely that terrorists will be identified and located in time to prevent another disaster.

These efforts and capabilities are winning the war on terrorism and keeping Americans safe. Unfortunately, unauthorized disclosures of some of these most sensitive investigations and programs are undermining our abilities and providing vital information to those killers who continuously seek to do us harm. The disclosure of our intelligence operations places our personnel, sources, and methods at risk. These operations are our first line of national security defense. The Government classifies information regarding our intelligence activities for a reason. When terrorists know how we are tracking them, they change the way they operate, making it harder to catch them. That makes this Nation less safe.

Osama bin Laden was clear in his intent to continue to wage Jihad against America and peace-loving people worldwide when he said in his recent videotaped message released on June 30, 2006:

We will continue to fight you and your allies everywhere, in Iraq, Afghanistan, Somalia, and Sudan to run down your resources and kill your men until you return defeated to your Nation.

As bin Laden makes clear, al-Qaida is still seeking to kill Americans and innocent people worldwide, and they are spreading their message of hate and

murder through the media and Internet. But America will not be defeated. This is a war we cannot and will not lose. We must put an end to the unauthorized leaks of sensitive information that aids our enemies in their plans to kill Americans and avoid capture. We must also continue to improve our counterterrorism efforts, finding new ways to disrupt enemy planning, eliminate terrorists from the battlefield, and strengthen collaboration within our intelligence, defense, and homeland security organizations.

Our intelligence community, the Department of Defense, and law enforcement organizations across this Nation remain vigilant, and we owe our support and a debt of gratitude to these dedicated men and women who are on the front line of the global war on terror. We are indeed winning, but as it has been pointed out, this is a long war. The President is leading that effort with the help of this Congress, and together we are keeping Americans safe.

Mr. President, I yield the floor, and I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT Pro Tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

HOMELAND SECURITY APPROPRIATIONS

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, yesterday a series of eight explosions struck the heart of Mumbai, India, during the evening rush-hour commute. At least 180 innocent civilians were killed and more than 700 were injured in the blast.

On behalf of this Senate and the American people, I express my heartfelt condolences to the victims, to their families, and to the Indian people. We share in your grief and in your determination to hunt down the criminals who carried out this despicable act. We will stand shoulder-to-shoulder with the Indian people and the Indian Government in order to bring the perpetrators of these attacks to justice.

Yesterday's bombings came less than a week after the 1-year anniversary of the London bombing attacks and less than a month after a thwarted terrorist plot against the New York City subway system was revealed. These cowardly acts remind us again and again of our responsibility to protect and secure the American homeland.

As we learned on 9/11, terrorists need to get it right just once. They exploit whatever weaknesses they can find, deliberately targeting hard-working men and women on their way to work or back from work, schoolchildren on the way to their daily school activities, vacationers on the way to the beach. In the face of such threats, we must be ever vigilant. Our pursuit must be determined. It must be tireless—breaking

up terrorist cells, destroying their financing, chasing down the money trail, and bringing each and every collaborator to justice. We have to strengthen our weaknesses and we have to root out whatever vulnerabilities we have.

That is why the bill that is on the floor today, the Homeland Security bill, is so important. The Homeland Security spending bill provides over \$32 billion to strengthen our ports, America's ports, our borders, our transit systems. It provides financial support for 100 new rail inspectors and canine teams, enhancing our Nation's railway security and ensuring that bombings such as those that happened in Mumbai and London aren't repeated here.

It adds 1,000 more Border Patrol agents, investigators, and those detention officers whom we know are so important in carrying out those responsibilities of securing our borders. Coupled with the spring supplemental, we will have added over 2,000 new agents in 1 year. That brings the total to over 14,300 Border Patrol agents.

The bill also expands much needed detention space—places to put people who illegally cross the border while justice is being administered—with 1,000 new beds so that we can be sure people caught entering this country illegally are not released before their cases are properly prosecuted. Taken with the spring supplemental, we will have added over 5,000 beds along the border in 1 year, bringing the total number to over 25,300 beds.

The bill provides nearly \$8.2 billion to the Coast Guard to protect the 95,000 miles of shoreline border and to inspect both foreign and domestic ports. It funds grants so that high-threat, high-density urban areas can strengthen their infrastructures against threat vulnerabilities. It supports our first responders so that our firefighters, police officers, and paramedics have the training they need should disaster strike. It provides more than \$818 million to combat weapons of mass destruction through appropriate research for biological and chemical countermeasures as well as for the Domestic Nuclear Detection Office to expand nuclear research and radiological detection.

We have to use every single tool available to prevent further attacks on American soil. That is why this bill is so important, the Homeland Security spending bill. It ensures that vital programs critical to our national security have the funding they need to be an effective defense.

Yesterday's bombings in Mumbai were part of a well-coordinated attack. We must pass the Homeland Security spending bill swiftly to ensure that similar attacks are not repeated and especially are not repeated on American soil.

I yield the floor, and I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. ALEXANDER). The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, what is the status of morning business, comparing majority and minority?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Democratic leader controls 30 minutes.

Mr. REID. That time would begin now?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Yes, that is correct.

A DO-NOTHING CONGRESS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, yesterday was a day where we did not accomplish much on the Senate floor. But we haven't accomplished much the entire congressional session. We have 22 days left to do business until the adjournment date announced by the distinguished majority leader—22 days. We have so much to do and we have done so little.

It is not me, the Democratic leader, who is saying this is a do-nothing Congress. This is what all the pundits have written about. We have wasted time on a political agenda.

What is a political agenda? We have spent days and days on an estate tax repeal that has no bearing on 99.8 percent of all the American people. It affects less than two-tenths of 1 percent of all the people in America, but we have spent days of our time here on the Senate floor dealing with this issue.

Flag burning—it doesn't matter how you feel about flag burning. Is it the right thing to do, to take up precious days of the Senate time on flag burning? In the little town where I was born and I still have my home they are patriotic people. On the Fourth of July, I was there. The flags were flying in that little town. But flag burning doesn't have direct bearing to their lives.

The marriage amendment—I believe in the sanctity of marriage, but is it something we should spend time on with a constitutional amendment? During the time we have been a country, there have been more than 11,000 attempts to amend the Constitution. In the last 12 years, we had 1,000 amendments to the Constitution filed. One we have spent a lot of time on, unnecessarily, is the marriage amendment. We have spent days of our time here in the Senate on this issue. The people in Searchlight, NV, would rather that we dealt with things that are important, not flag burning, not gay marriage, not the estate tax. With the limited amount of time we have left, we, the minority, the Democrats, believe we have to do some things and do them before the August recess—things that affect people in my little town, Searchlight, NV.

Stem cell legislation—it is difficult to watch, before your eyes, someone who deteriorates with Parkinson's disease. You can see it happen. No matter